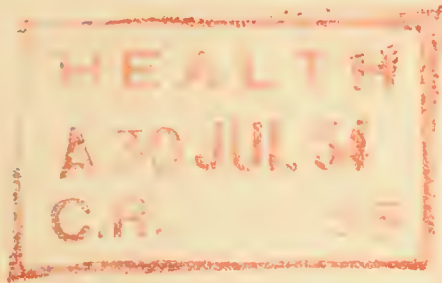


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Urban District Council of Rishton

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

INCLUDING DETAILS OF WORK

DONE BY THE

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

FOR THE DISTRICT OF RISHTON FOR THE


**YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.**

*Medical Officer of Health—*

Dr. R. C. WEBSTER,  
19, St. James Street,  
ACCRINGTON.  
Tel. Accrington 4223.

*Sanitary Inspector—*

S. PILKINGTON, Esq.,  
Council Offices,  
Brook Street,  
RISHTON,  
Nr. Blackburn.  
Tel. Gt. Harwood 2264.



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Council Offices,  
Rishton.

May, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members  
OF THE  
Urban District Council of Rishton.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of Rishton for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,878.4
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£34,602
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£136
Population 1951 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,794
Estimated 1952 Mid-year Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,741
Estimated 1953 Mid-year Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,660

Rishton is a compact Urban area whose chief industries are cotton, felt and carpet weaving and paper making.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Death Rate (crude) ... ..	12.5
Death Rate (adjusted) ... ..	11.3
Death Rate—England and Wales ... ..	11.4
Live Birth Rate (crude) ... ..	11.8
Live Birth Rate (adjusted) ... ..	12.3
Live Birth Rate—England and Wales ... ..	15.5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births ... ..	15
Maternity Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births ... ..	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	Nil



There were 67 live births and one stillbirth registered during 1953, and 71 deaths from all causes. The birth rate has increased from 10.3 to 11.8, and the death rate has fallen from 15 to 12.5. The average age at death was 66.8 years, a fall of one year on last year's figure. 46.5 per cent. of deaths took place at the age of 70 or over as compared with 52.4 per cent. last year, and 15.5 per cent. of deaths at 80 or over as compared with 19.0 in 1952.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As will be seen from the tables at the end of the report, Whooping Cough was the only disease of note during the year. One case of Food Poisoning was notified, but on investigation was found to be linked with a larger outbreak in a nearby district.

It is to be hoped that a high percentage of children will receive the protection of immunisation against Diphtheria to prevent a return of this disease.

### LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Local Health and Welfare Services under the National Health and Assistance Acts, are administered in Rishton by the Lancashire County Council Number 5 Health Division.

Miss E. Singleton is the Health Visitor/School Nurse for the Rishton District and the following are the Services administered at the Child Welfare and School Clinic, 108, High Street, Rishton. Tel. Great Harwood 3177.

1. Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month (morning).
2. Child Welfare Clinic Each Tuesday Afternoon.
3. Minor Ailment Clinic Each Monday and Friday morning.
4. Immunisation Clinic As and when arranged.
5. Orthopaedic Clinic Fourth Wednesday each month.
6. Ophthalmic Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursday (afternoon) and every Friday morning.
7. Dental Clinic Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (all day).
8. Speech Therapy Every Tuesday (all day).
9. Physiotherapy Every Wednesday (all day).

Wherever possible appointments should be made before clinics are attended, although the Dental Officer will attend to cases of toothache without appointments.

The County Midwife for Rishton is Mrs. J. Rawcliffe, of 27, Blackburn Road, Rishton. Tel. Great Harwood 3205.

The County District Nurse for the area is Mrs. E. Clarke, of 132, High Street, Rishton. Tel. Great Harwood 2055.

To obtain the Ambulance Service ring—Accrington 4780.

### STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953

			Total		Males		Females
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	66	...	34	...	32
Live Births—Illegitimate	...	...	1	...	1	...	Nil
TOTALS			67	...	35	...	32

Still Births	...	...	...	...	1	...	Nil	...	1
Deaths	...	...	...	...	71	...	41	...	30

### POPULATION—FIGURES OVER THE LAST 8 YEARS

			Registrar General's Estimated Figure		Births		Deaths		Birth & Death Differential
1953	...	...	5,660	...	67	...	71	...	— 4
1952	...	...	5,741	...	59	...	86	...	— 27
1951 (Census)	..		5,794	...	70	...	91	...	— 21
1950	...	...	5,926	...	81	...	93	...	— 12
1949	...	...	5,832	...	90	...	87	...	+ 3
1948	...	...	5,644	...	84	...	72	...	+ 12
1947	...	...	5,467	...	118	...	87	...	+ 31
1946	...	...	5,405	...	92	...	87	...	+ 5

### SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF DEATH

				Males		Females		Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Malignant Neoplasms (Stomach)	...			1	...	2	...	3
Malignant Neoplasms (Breast)	...	...		—	...	1	...	1
Malignant Neoplasms (Uterus)	...	...		—	...	1	...	1
Malignant Neoplasms (other)	...	...		7	...	—	...	7
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System				5	...	7	...	12
Coronary Disease	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...			—	...	1	...	1
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	7	...	7	...	14
Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	...	2	...	9
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...			2	...	—	...	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...			5	...	5	...	10
All other accidents	...	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
TOTALS				41	...	30	...	71

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases and Mortality During 1953

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Rep.		Respiratory		Non-Rep.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
45—	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0
TOTAL	7		0		2		0	
Figures for 1952	9		5		4		0	

### PUBLIC HEALTH TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1930

Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register on the 31st December, 1953, is as follows :—

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total		
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
20	17	37	5	8	13	25	25	50

As compared with the figures at the 31st December, 1952, which are as follows :

M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
20	17	37	7	8	15	27	25	52



## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases All Ages	0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	3				3					
Measles ... ..	8		3	3	2					
Whooping Cough .	40	4	16	12	8					
Acute Pneumonia .	7		1			1		3	2	
Food Poisoning ...	1									1
Erysipelas ... ..	3							1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1							1		
Total cases in each age group	63	4	20	15	13	1	—	5	3	2

### Infectious Disease Notification over last 5 years

Disease	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—	3	2	3
Measles ... ..	20	6	133	118	8
Whooping Cough ...	35	25	28	3	40
Pneumonia ... ..	7	8	17	5	7
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	—	3	—	2	3
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ... ..	—	34	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	64	76	181	130	63

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER,  
Medical Officer of Health.



Council Offices,  
Brook Street,  
Rishton.

## Report of the Sanitary Inspector

**For the Year Ended 31st December, 1953.**

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I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1953. The year saw a recovery in the sale of waste paper after the failure in 1952. Whilst the price was much below the previous peak, a steady trade was maintained. With a steady market and co-operation by the public, salvage can make a good contribution to the rates.

I am grateful to the officials and staff for the help I have received, and to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

S. PILKINGTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

Samples of the water supply to the area have been taken with the following results :—

Treated water—36 samples taken. 3 unsatisfactory.

The unsatisfactory samples occurred during periods of heavy rainfall following dry spells.

During the year a trickle ration was introduced for a period of approximately one month, due to a shortage of water. The Accrington and District Water Board, the suppliers to this area, are aware of their problems with regard to adequacy of water and are taking all steps possible to improve the supply.

### Drainage.

A pleasing feature with regard to drainage in Rishton was the increase in the number of conversions of the insanitary waste water closets to fresh water closets, 39 being carried out during the year. The Council in order to encourage this work make a grant of £6 per authorised conversion. Application for this grant should be made to the Council before the work commences.

### Public Cleansing Service.

During the year staggered holidays have been introduced to ensure a weekly collection of household refuse together with a twice weekly collection of trade refuse. This first year experiment proved satisfactory to both operatives and general public.

The Council provided protective clothing for the Cleansing and Scavenging staff for use during wet weather. These coats and leggings have proved very valuable and a great protection against the elements.

As can be seen from the table appended, 60 tons of waste paper were sold, providing an income of £323. It is to be hoped that the market price of waste paper and demand for same can be stabilized instead of the fluctuating chaos that has occurred in the past.

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
January	...	...	...	...	3	17	—	24	1	3
February	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	...	...	...	...	4	16	3	30	4	8
April	...	...	...	...	5	10	—	28	17	6
May	...	...	...	...	10	8	3	54	16	—
June	...	...	...	...	10	6	—	54	1	6
July	...	...	...	...	2	13	—	13	18	3
August	...	...	...	...	5	7	2	28	4	5
September	...	...	...	...	3	5	—	17	1	3
October	...	...	...	...	2	4	2	11	13	8
November	...	...	...	...	8	11	—	44	17	10
December	...	...	...	...	2	16	2	14	16	8
					59	16	—	322	13	—

Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	...	15	0	1
Rags	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	0
						£17	5	1

Receipts for Tippings ... .. £50 16 6

### RODENT CONTROL

The part-time rodent operator has been engaged throughout the year on systematic control in areas where heavy infestations could occur if neglected, such as the tip, sewage works, and the sewers and the canal. A survey of the area revealed that most infestations are of isolated character with the origin traceable to a defect in the drainage of the premises concerned. The success that we have had has been achieved by the co-operation of the occupiers of the premises involved. In order to encourage the notification of such infestations at dwellinghouses the Council provide a free disinfestation service.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Twenty samples of milk were taken during the year and proved to be satisfactory from the point of view of cleanliness. One sample however re-acted to the Tuberculosis-biological test and details of the samples were forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which resulted in the seizure of one animal under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

One case of swine fever occurred in the district during the year involving twelve pigs. All offal and 4 carcasses were rejected as unfit for human consumption.

### Unsound Food.

The following foodstuffs have been rejected during the year as being unfit for human consumption.

Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	2 tins
Corned Beef	...	...	4 tins
Plums	...	...	54 tins
Peas	...	...	3 tins
Apricots	...	...	4 tins.
Jam	...	...	7 tins
Beef	...	...	309 lbs.
Pork	...	...	23 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	60 lbs.
Lamb	...	...	32 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Jellied Veal	...	...	6 lbs.
Boiled Ham	...	...	112 lbs.
Ox Tongue	...	...	194 lbs.
Shrimps	...	...	4 quarts

## HOUSING INSPECTION

Houses inspected for housing defects .....	73
Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	172
Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation .....	—
Number of dwelling houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation .....	64
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after informal action	59
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notice was served .....	1
Number made fit by owners after service of formal notice ...	1

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

## Part I of the Act.

1.—Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Number on Register		Inspec- tions		Written notices		Occupiers prose- cuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	11	...	19	...	—	...	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	22	...	41	...	—	...	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Total ... ..	33	...	60	...	—	...	—

No defects were found at the time of inspection.







